



Department of Community and Culture

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BI-2074
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State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

March 27, 2006

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Finance Docket No. 34075 – Rail Line - Levan to Salina, Utah

In reply, please refer to Case No. 02-1734

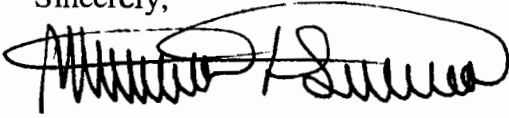
Dear Ms. Rutson:

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received your request for comment on the above referenced project on March 9, 2006. In the letter, and in subsequent phone conversations with Phillis Johnson-Ball and Kathy Glidden of your office, your agency has indicated that you are seeking preliminary commentary on the eligibility determinations provided in the consultant's report for this project, along with preliminary thoughts on project effects, and recommendations regarding potential additional consulting parties. We understand from your letter and our phone conversations that you have not made final determinations of eligibility and effect, but are openly soliciting input in advance of these determinations.

In that light, we have attached our commentary on the eligibility determinations. In terms of effect, based on conversations with Ms. Glidden, it appears unlikely that the project will be able to avoid all eligible sites, and that therefore the project is likely to have an adverse effect. Per our conversation with Ms. Glidden, we are open to finding creative ways of resolving this effect, and feel that some combination of archaeological data recovery and public outreach efforts will likely result in a cost-effective and appropriate mitigation strategy. In terms of additional consulting parties, we recommend you consider the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, the Utah Professional Archaeological Council, and the Utah Historic Trails Consortium.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment informally, as we have found that such informal and well-planned early consultation often results in more efficient outcomes for the Section 106 process. We look forward to formal determinations of eligibility and effect from your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email (mseddon@utah.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew T. Seddon', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Matthew T. Seddon, Ph.D., RPA
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-Archaeology

cc. Montgomery Archaeological Consultants; P.O. Box 147; 322 East 100 South; Moab UT 84532